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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Sixty-second plenary session

Paris, 9-11 April 2014

Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda

Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

Implementation of the 2013 Statistical Programme and list of meetings held

Note by the Secretariat

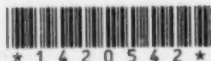
Summary

The document provides information on the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2013. The report is based on the information in an online reporting system, the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System, used within the United Nations secretariat. The note provides brief description of the main accomplishments; lists outputs prepared such as publications, recommendations and guidelines, global assessments, databases and websites; and includes a list of meetings organised in 2013.

A final evaluation of the accomplishments will be provided in the Biennial Evaluation Report 2012-2013 that will be submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians (document ECE/CES/2014/14).

The document is presented to the Conference of European Statisticians for approval. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians endorsed the report in January 2014.

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I. Description of the main accomplishments in 2013

A. Coordination of international statistical work in the Economic Commission for Europe region

1. International statistical work was reviewed in depth in six areas to improve inter-agency coordination and eliminate overlaps and gaps in statistical activities in ECE region. The reviews addressed statistics related to population ageing; banking, insurance and financial statistics; poverty statistics; political and other community activities; big data; and entrepreneurship. As a follow-up to these reviews, international work was launched to improve the availability of ageing-related statistics and to provide guidance on big data in official statistics. A seminar to discuss the way forward in poverty measurement was held in December 2013 and it recommended launching new work to develop a coherent set of indicators to measure absolute and relative poverty, inequality and social exclusion.

2. In 2013, 26 international organizations provided information to the ECE Database on International Statistical Activities (DISA) for coordination of work. This includes 4 UN City Groups and inter-secretariat working groups, as well as the global Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21). Full use of the DISA classification, developed by ECE, was made by the international consortium on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange, and the United Nations Statistics Division in their global inventory of statistical standards.

B. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical database

3. Progress was made in the availability of high quality macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics in the ECE statistical database. The new clearing house for harmonizing migration data of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, launched in 2012, was developed further as a tool for data confrontation.

4. The timeliness, completeness, reliability and comparability of the statistical database were improved. In the end of 2013, in total 158 statistical time series were available in the database with 7 new series of the migration clearing house.

5. User satisfaction remained high, with two online surveys indicating that 84 per cent of users considered the quality of data as excellent or good. In 2012-2013, data downloads increased by 41 per cent compared to 2010-2011. Automated data collection processes developed by ECE increased the timeliness and reliability of data, and a new web interface improved functionalities and visualization of data.

C. Methodological work

6. In 2013, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau endorsed four methodological guidelines that were developed in

cooperation with countries and partners, such as Eurostat and OECD: CES recommendations on measuring sustainable development; A stock-taking report on measuring human capital; A compilation of good practices in human resources management and training; and Guidelines for harmonizing time use surveys.

7. In 2013, ECE contributed to the drafting of several publications with recommendations for good practices, prepared jointly with international organizations, to provide recommendations and good practices to ensure comparability of statistics. Most of these publications were prepared jointly and in cooperation with major partners, such as Eurostat, OECD, IMF, UNSD and others (see publications and manuals in part II).

8. Two draft recommendations were prepared in 2013 for endorsement by the Conference in 2014, namely on gender equality indicators and climate change related statistics.

9. In 2013, ECE also participated in the development of a number of projects undertaken by other international organizations, including the United Nations Statistics Division, OECD and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat).

10. ECE undertook methodological work in 27 out of 55 statistical areas of the Classification of International Statistical Activities (DISA).

D. Capacity building

11. In 2013, ECE carried out 11 training workshops with the support of the regular budget, the budget for technical cooperation, funding from the United Nations development account and external funding sources. In addition, a number of advisory missions were conducted at the request of countries.

12. The progress in implementing international standards and compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics was analysed by Global Assessments of national statistical systems. ECE, with the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the World Bank, carried out in 2013 Global Assessments in Belarus, Georgia and Mongolia.

13. In total, 89 per cent of experts who took part in ECE training workshops considered the training to be of high quality and useful for their work. ECE provided advisory services in 12 statistical areas to support the countries in achieving better compliance with international standards and good practices.

II. Outputs prepared in 2013

A. Manuals, guidelines, recommendations, compilations of best practices

14. All manuals and guidelines are available at the following address:
www.unecce.org/statshome/publications-amp-resources/publications.html

(a) *CES Recommendations on Measuring Sustainable Development*

15. The report presents recommendations for measuring sustainable development and suggests sustainable development indicators that can be used for international comparison.

(b) *Guidelines for Harmonizing Time Use Surveys*

16. The publication facilitates the exchange of good practice and defines the concepts, methodology and ways of aggregation of time use survey results.

(c) *A Stock-Taking Report on Measuring Human Capital*

17. Following a CES seminar in June 2011, a small group prepared a stock-taking report providing an overview of what has been done in the field of human capital measurement.

(d) *Compilation of Good Practices in Human Resources Management and Training*

18. The compilation of good practices is based on over 20 papers selected from the seminars organised on the topic in 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

(e) *Practices of UNECE Countries in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses*

19. The publication reviews UNECE countries' practices during the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, and will provide input for the new CES recommendations.

(f) *Getting the Facts Right: A Guide to Presenting Metadata with Examples on MDGs*

20. The handbook is guide to producing, managing and presenting metadata with a specific focus is on metadata for the Millennium Development Goal indicators.

(g) *Indicators of Gender Equality* (to be submitted to CES in 2014)

21. The publication identifies the key indicators that UNECE countries would be able to produce in order to improve monitoring of gender equality.

(h) *Recommendations on Climate Change Related Statistics* (to be submitted to CES in 2014)

22. The report provides recommendations for improving climate change related statistics of national statistical systems and enhancing their utility for greenhouse gas inventories.

B. Global Assessments

23. Three global assessments were carried out: in Belarus, Georgia and Mongolia, in collaboration with Eurostat, EFTA and the World Bank.

C. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical database

24. The statistical database is available at: <http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/>, providing:

- Macroeconomic data (national accounts main aggregates, industrial production, labour force, population, wages, price indices, purchasing power parities, exchange rates, balance of payments, external debt);
- Social and demographic data with gender breakdown (population, fertility, families and households, work and the economy, education, public life and decision making, health and mortality, crime and violence, science and ICT, and life balance);
- Regional MDG database covering indicators all 8 Millennium Development Goals for more than 30 countries;
- Transport statistics and forestry statistics provided by other UNECE Divisions;
- New Clearinghouse for Migration statistics for the countries of the CIS countries.

D. Websites

- UNECE Statistical Division's website: www.unece.org/stats
- Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) 2013: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/DISA2013
- Statistical database website: <http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/>
- UNECE Data Locator: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/DLoc/Welcome+to+the+UNECE+Data+Locator
- Gender statistics website with multimedia training videos: www.unece.org/stats/gender.html
- Library of training materials on statistics: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/train
- Wikis and knowledge bases on different subjects: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/dashboard.action
 - High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services
 - Big Data
 - 2008 System of National Accounts implementation
 - Human resources management and training in statistical offices
 - K-base: Data editing knowledge base
 - Measuring violence against women
 - Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) wiki

- Population and Housing Censuses several wikis for Task Forces
- Price index Processor software
- Statistical metadata (METIS), including the Common Metadata Framework and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model
- Administrative and Secondary Sources in Statistics (ASSIST)
- Statistical Literacy
- Statistical Network
- Several wikis for active Task Forces and one for the CES Bureau

III. List of meetings organized in 2013

25. All documents for the meetings are available at:
www.unece.org/statistics/meetings-and-events.html

No.	Meeting (venue)	Date	Capacity Building
1	Task Force on global production (Geneva, Switzerland)	21-22 January	
2	High-Level group for the modernisation of statistical production and services (Luxembourg)	5 February	
3	Third meeting of the 2012-2013 CES Bureau (Luxembourg)	5-6 February	
4	Regional workshop on economic classifications (Kishinev, Moldova)	19-21 March	X
5	Meetings on National Accounts (Geneva, Switzerland) <i>Group of Experts on National Accounts - interim meeting on Global Production</i> <i>Task Force on Global Production</i>	3-5 April 3-4 April 5 April	
6	Sprint meeting on statistical business architecture (Ottawa, Canada)	8-12 April	
7	Task Force on climate change related statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	22-23 April	
8	Meeting on the management of statistical information systems (Geneva, Switzerland)	23-25 April	
9	Work Session on statistical metadata (Geneva, Switzerland)	6-8 May	
10	Workshop on agri-environmental statistics (Budva, Montenegro)	13-15 May	X
11	Work Session on the communication of statistics (Berlin, Germany)	27-29 May	
12	Training workshop on PC-Axis (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)	3-7 June	X
13	61st plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Geneva, Switzerland)	10-12 June	
14	Follow-up to Rio+20: measuring sustainable development and implementing the System of	12-13 June	X

	Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) (Geneva, Switzerland)		
15	8th SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics (PWGS) (Geneva, Switzerland)	13 June	X
16	Sprint meeting on proof of concept design (Rome, Italy)	10-14 June	
17	High-Level group for the modernisation of statistical production and services (Geneva, Switzerland)	14 June	
18	Joint UNECE/EFTA/Eurostat High-Level Seminar on Global Assessments and Peer Reviews – follow-up and next steps (Alushta, Ukraine)	25-27 June	X
19	National training workshops on presenting metadata for the Millennium Development Goals (Baku, Azerbaijan and Tbilisi, Yerevan)	2-5 July	X
20	Group of experts on Business Registers (Geneva, Switzerland)	2-4 September	
21	Group of experts on measuring quality of employment (Geneva, Switzerland)	11-13 September	
22	Seminar on data collection (Geneva, Switzerland)	25-27 September	
23	Meetings on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland)	30 September – 4 October	
	<i>Group of experts on population and housing censuses</i>	30 September – 4 October	
	<i>Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses</i>	4 October	X
24	Meetings on climate change related statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	8-9 October	
	<i>Meeting on climate change related statistics for producers and users</i>	8-9 October	
	<i>Task Force on climate change related statistics</i>	9 October	
25	High-level seminar on Population Censuses and migration statistics in CIS Countries (Gelendzhik, Russian Federation)	16-18 October	X
26	Meeting of the 2013-2014 CES Bureau (Geneva, Switzerland)	21-22 October	
27	Work session on statistical data confidentiality (Geneva, Switzerland)	28-20 October	
28	Joint Eurostat/UNECE work session on demographic projections (Rome, Italy)	29-31 October	
29	Capacity-building workshop on migration statistics (Almaty, Kazakhstan)	31 October - 1 November	X
30	Joint task force on environmental indicators (Geneva, Switzerland)	5-7 November	X
31	Second workshop on waste statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	4 November	X
32	Sprint meeting on the Generic Statistical Information Model (Geneva, Switzerland)	18-22 November	
33	Joint workshop on implementation of 2008 SNA and links to government finance statistics (Istanbul, Turkey)	20-22 November	X

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| 34 | Workshop on the modernisation of statistical production and services (Geneva, Switzerland) | 25-27 November |
| 35 | High-Level group for the modernisation of statistical production and services (Geneva, Switzerland) | 27 November |
| 36 | Seminar "The way forward in poverty measurement" (Geneva, Switzerland) | 2-4 December |
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Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

Report of a high level seminar on global assessments and peer reviews – follow-up and next steps

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

This document presents the outcomes of the high level seminar on global assessments and peer reviews, held in Alushta, Ukraine, on 25-27 June 2013. The seminar addressed key findings and good practices concerning the institutional organization of national statistical systems and their capacity to produce and disseminate official statistics according to international and European Union standards. The aim was to share experience on the implementation of improvement recommendations related to the institutional environment and evaluate the programme through exchange of views among participating countries, experts and donors.

This document is submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians for information.

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I. Introduction

1. This high level seminar was jointly organized and funded by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Eurostat and UNECE with the objective to take stock of all the (adapted) Global Assessments and (light) Peer Reviews conducted in the various regions and countries, to discuss their outcomes and benefits and to identify future action and modalities of further assessments. It brought together for the first time in the area of statistics very different regions; the Western Balkans, Turkey, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) including Mongolia as well as the Non-European Mediterranean countries. The overall purpose of the seminar was to exchange experiences, learn from each other and identify the way ahead to follow-up the current round of assessments. This seminar was a continuation of a similar event in Yalta in 2009 that discussed global assessments for the eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries and presented the kick-off of the process of the 2009-2013 round of (adapted) Global Assessments and (light) Peer Reviews.

2. A peer review focuses on the compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice while a global assessment focuses on the United Nations (UN) Fundamental principles of official statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice and also evaluates statistical domains as well as their compliance with international and European standards. The evaluation of compliance with standards and principles during the adapted global assessments and light peer reviews for the Western Balkans, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine was made with an emphasis on the European standards in statistics. The legal basis for this are the Stabilisation and Association Agreements for the Western Balkans, the Accession Partnership for Turkey and the Association Agreements for the five East European neighborhood countries, by which these countries took on the commitment to gradually approximate to European legislation in their statistical production.

II. The objectives of the seminar

3. The objectives of the seminar were the following:

- (a) Present the procedures and processes for the various types of assessments, be it global assessments or peer reviews and their commonalities and differences;
- (b) Receive feedback from the countries on the benefits and challenges of the assessments;
- (c) Review and learn from each other on good practices identified during the assessments;
- (d) Discuss recommendations along the lines of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice, in particular regarding the institutional environment of a statistical office, quality, production processes and dissemination;
- (e) Exchange experience on existing good practices and ways of implementing the improvement recommendations;
- (f) Discuss the usefulness and impact of assessments for the further development of a statistical office and a national statistical system;
- (g) Reflect on the way forward in implementing different types of assessments in the future.

III. Scope of participation

4. The high level seminar brought together about 70 participants and speakers from the national statistical offices of Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Libya, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan as well as from Statistics Norway and Statistics Sweden, Eurostat, UNECE Statistical Division, EFTA Statistical Office, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), the World Bank, the Eurasian Economic Commission and three experts who had been involved in the assessments.

IV. Conclusions

5. The high level seminar can be considered a success because it encouraged and promoted the exchange of experiences and good practices between the different countries and regions and identified the way forward in supporting the countries in the implementation of the improvement recommendations and in applying different types of assessments, as relevant and feasible. The following text presents the conclusions that can be drawn from the three-day seminar.

A. Review of implementation

6. Most of the countries present had already undergone one or the other type of assessment.

7. Those who have not yet had an assessment received a concrete introduction to what an assessment is, what it can be used for, what is needed to prepare for it and what could be a good timing to request it.

8. The process of the different types of assessments was reviewed and good practices / success stories were identified such as the revision of the statistical law, dissemination practices, improvements on the website, coordination of the national statistical system, introduction of a more systematic quality management, etc.

9. The benefits of assessments and recommendations were recognized and promoted by the countries. The impact of these assessments on their statistical system and the broader institutional environment were also highlighted.

10. Most of the countries have integrated the recommendations for improvement (improvement actions) into their statistical strategies and long-term and annual work programmes and have started implementing the improvement actions. Many already demonstrated with tangible results the feasibility of implementing the recommendations. It was acknowledged that the recommendations are of different scope and nature and some need more effort and persuasiveness to be implemented than others.

11. The exchange on how the recommendations can be implemented, what kind of challenges this poses to the different stakeholders and how these challenges can be overcome has already proved to be very fruitful and will continue to allow learning from each other.

12. It has been recognised that there is no silver bullet to the implementation of recommendations, but that it has to be adapted to the background and context of each country. The exchange of approaches and solutions will continue on different occasions, during missions or meetings in the countries.

B. Monitoring and support

13. Eurostat, together with UNECE, has started the process of monitoring the implementation of the improvement actions in the assessed countries. For the Western Balkans and Turkey this process was set-up in 2012 and is on-going whereas for the EECCA countries this process will be reviewed on the occasion of the next high level seminar in Vilnius in September 2013, organised by Eurostat.

14. Annual monitoring of implementation allows the senior management of national statistical offices to have an overview of the state of implementation, achievements and challenges, and to understand the remaining problems, while for international organisations the monitoring results help to identify possible areas for technical assistance.

15. Implementation of the improvement recommendations will be supported by the international organizations through projects, advocacy or other means. Countries are encouraged to address the implementation of improvement actions in donor projects, twinning projects or other kinds of support mechanisms.

16. Eurostat, UNECE and EFTA stand ready to support the countries in promoting the recommendations from the reports to the different stakeholders in the national statistical system and beyond, and to promote the assessments as well as the underlying principles of official statistics, as needed.

C. Outlook

17. For the way forward, four different kinds of assessment were identified, each of them being applied only upon request by the countries:

- (a) Normal global assessments, five years after the last assessment at the earliest;
- (b) Shorter / focused assessments addressing the state of implementation of the recommendations (based on the annual monitoring launched by Eurostat and UNECE), areas with identified shortcomings and any other issue that may arise in the meantime;
- (c) Sectoral assessments focusing in-depth on a specific statistical domain;
- (d) Peer reviews assessing the compliance with the principles of the European Statistic Code of Practice applying the methodology used for the EU Member States.

18. It was suggested to include experts from recently assessed NSIs in the assessment teams for other countries in order to build-up experience and exchange knowledge among peers with the same background and coming from similar systems.

19. The follow-up of specific challenges, problems and practices in the regions will be ensured in the meetings for different groups of countries:

- (a) For the Western Balkans and Turkey (EU enlargement countries) in the Policy Group for Statistical Cooperation organised by Eurostat;
- (b) For the EECCA countries and Mongolia in various high level seminars such as the one for the European Neighbourhood Policy East (ENP East) and Central Asia countries organised by Eurostat, or the events of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asian countries (SPECA) organised by UNECE;
- (c) For the non-European Mediterranean countries (European Neighbourhood Policy South countries, ENP South) in the meetings of the Euro-Med Forum organised by Eurostat.



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Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

Report of the high-level seminar on population censuses and migration statistics in the Commonwealth of Independent States

Note by the Secretariat

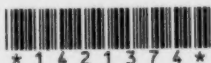
Addendum

Summary

This document presents the outcomes of the high-level seminar on population censuses and migration statistics in the Commonwealth of Independent States, held in Gelendzhik (Russian Federation) on 16-18 October 2013. The objective of the high-level seminar was to discuss among heads of national statistical offices the challenges related to conducting population censuses and producing statistics on international migration. The seminar reviewed the lessons learned with the 2010 round of population censuses and the current state of migration statistics. It agreed upon a future course of action to improve population censuses and migration statistics.

The document is submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians for information.

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I. Attendance

1. The high-level seminar on population censuses and migration statistics in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was held in Gelendzhik (Russian Federation) on 16-18 October 2013. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat) jointly organized the seminar. The Seminar is organized in the framework of a three-year cooperation project on censuses and migration statistics with financial support of the Russian Federation.

2. The high-level seminar was attended by participants from national statistical offices, ministries, migration agencies and research institutes representing the following countries: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Spain, Tajikistan, Ukraine and United Kingdom. Furthermore, the representatives of the International Organization for Migration, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), Moscow State Lomonosov University and Minnesota Population Center also participated.

II. Organization of the seminar

3. The seminar was organised by the UNECE Statistical Division and Rosstat. The programme of the seminar consisted of the following sessions:

- (a) Overview of population censuses;
- (b) The traditional census: challenges, problems and solutions;
- (c) Alternative census methods: what could be the future options for CIS countries?
- (d) Round table discussion on the future of population censuses in CIS countries;
- (e) Challenges of migration statistics in CIS countries;
- (f) Use of data from the census, household surveys and administrative sources to improve the measurement of international migration;
- (g) Availability and exchange of migration data between countries;
- (h) Round table discussion on the ways to improve migration statistics in CIS countries;
- (i) Conclusions on the way forward with population censuses and migration statistics.

III. Conclusions

A. Population censuses

4. National statistical offices of the CIS countries should remain closely involved in the preparation of the Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 census round, to ensure that harmonised solutions are found for their specific situations and data needs. The most pressing need is to establish common operational definitions for the place of usual residence, economic activity and labour migrants in the census.

5. For the 2020 round, CIS countries should consider methodological and technological innovations, such as using the internet, tablet computers and e-mapping, all of which could essentially improve the efficiency of census-taking.

6. The use of administrative registers in CIS countries is increasing. National statistical offices should be actively involved in developing and adapting administrative sources for statistical use, taking into account the efficiency gains that this can have for the country's entire statistical system.
7. In planning the content of the next census, national statistical offices should engage in dialogue with the data users and policymakers to be able to meet the national information needs.
8. To focus their efforts, CIS countries need a strategy on how to prepare for their future censuses. Such strategy could aim at maximising efficiency gains and other improvements by the 2030 round of censuses.

B. Migration statistics

9. The differences in the methodologies of compiling migration statistics remain a concern. As a first step towards better understanding of migration statistics and their discrepancies, statistical offices should publish more metadata and explain to the users the advantages and disadvantages of the various data sources.
10. To improve migration statistics, national statistical offices should work in close cooperation with migration services, ministries of interior, labour authorities and other bodies responsible for the management of migration. Access to various administrative data on migration should be improved.
11. There is a need for a guide on the use of administrative data for the measurement of international migration in CIS countries.
12. Countries where the registration systems of migration are still paper-based should maximise efforts for installing electronic systems that allow efficient data processing.
13. Household surveys should take a more prominent place in the system of data sources on migration. There is a need for a guide on the use of household surveys for improving the measurement of international migration in CIS countries.
14. Statistical offices should aim at integrating the different sources of migration data into a system where the different components complement each other.
15. The UNECE Clearing House of Migration Statistics is a useful tool for better understanding of migration statistics of CIS countries, for the estimation of emigration in particular. CIS countries should remain committed to provide migration data and related metadata for sharing through the Clearing House.

C. Future activities

16. UNECE, Rosstat and CIS-STAT are jointly implementing a three-year cooperation project that aims at strengthening the capacity of CIS countries to conduct population censuses and produce statistics on international migration. The project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.
17. Participation in UNECE expert meetings on population censuses and migration statistics is important for the CIS countries, because it enables their close involvement in the preparation of the Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 census round and provides a unique opportunity to learn from the experience of other countries.

18. Meetings of CIS experts will be organized back-to-back with the UNECE meetings on similar topics. In the cooperation project of UNECE, Rosstat and CIS-STAT, the next meetings will be organized as follows:

(a) Expert meeting for CIS countries on finalizing the CES recommendations on the 2020 round of population censuses, to be held back-to-back with the UNECE Expert Meeting on Population Censuses, in September 2014 in Geneva;

(b) Expert meeting for CIS countries on the use of population censuses and household surveys to measure international migration, to be held back-to-back with the UNECE Work Session on Migration Statistics, in October 2014 in a CIS country;

(c) Expert meeting for CIS experts on improving the use of administrative sources to measure international migration in CIS countries, in spring 2015 in a CIS country;

(d) High-level seminar to evaluate the outcome of the project, including the census strategy for CIS countries, in 2015.

19. UNECE will organize the production of a guide, in Russian and English, on the use of administrative data and household surveys to measure international migration in the CIS region, and present it for endorsement to the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in June 2015.

20. Participants thanked UNECE and Rosstat for organizing the High-level Seminar, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation for the financial support to this event.
